

Listing and Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A device for capturing the potential energy of water, comprising:
a hollow wheel rotatable about a horizontal axis and comprising blades; and
a fixed dam located inside the rotatable wheel; and
a lower fixed part for channeling inflowing water;

the fixed dam, the blades of the wheel, and the lower fixed part together serving as a dam to retain a head of water and enabling potential energy of the water to be captured.

21. (New) Device according to claim 20, wherein the rotatable wheel comprises support discs supporting the blades.

22. (New) Device according to claim 21, wherein the support discs have a toothed outer form.

23. (New) Device according to claim 21, wherein the support discs have an untoothed outer form.

24. (New) Device according to claim 21, wherein the blades have a hydrodynamic shape and the support discs have a corresponding outer form.

25. (New) Device according to claim 21 operative as an elevator for lifting fish from an outlet of the device to water upstream of the device.

26. (New) Device according to claim 25, comprising flaps pivotably attached to the rotatable wheel, said flaps actuatable to entrap fish at an outlet of the device and actuatable to release entrapped fish into water upstream of the device.

27. (New) A device for capturing the potential energy of water, comprising:
a hollow wheel rotatable about a horizontal axis and comprising blades;

a fixed part located inside the rotatable wheel and serving as a dam to retain a water level for capturing potential energy of the water and having a curved underside matching the hollow wheel; and

a lower fixed part cooperating with the fixed part located inside the rotatable wheel to define an inlet channel for water and an outlet channel, the inlet channel having a curved upper surface facing the curved underside of the fixed part serving as a dam and an outlet channel, the inlet channel cooperating with the fixed part serving as a dam and with the blades in the channel so as to enable energy of the water to be captured, and so that with the blades between the inlet channel and the fixed part serving as a dam the only losses at the lower part of the rotatable wheel are leakage losses.

28. (New) Device according to claim 27, wherein the rotatable wheel comprises support discs supporting the blades.

29. (New) Device according to claim 28, wherein the support discs have a toothed outer form.

30. (New) Device according to claim 28, wherein the support discs have an untoothed outer form.

31. (New) Device according to claim 28, wherein the blades have a hydrodynamic shape and the support discs have a corresponding outer form.

32. (New) Device according to claim 28 operative as an elevator for lifting fish from an outlet of the device to water upstream of the device.

33. (New) Device according to claim 32, comprising flaps pivotably attached to the rotatable part, said flaps actuatable to entrap fish at an outlet of the device and actuatable to release entrapped fish into water upstream of the device.